

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-7 have been amended.

Claims 1-8 are pending and under consideration.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116:

Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response because the amendments of claims 1-7 should not entail any further search by the Examiner since no new features are being added or no new issues are being raised; and the amendments do not significantly alter the scope of the claims and place the application at least into a better form for purposes of appeal. No new features or new issues are being raised.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures sets forth in Section 714.12 that "any amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered." Moreover, Section 714.13 sets forth that "the Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified." The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth therein. The claims have been amended to improve clarity and antecedent support and address the rejections presented in the Office Action.

Support for the amended recitations may be found for instance, in FIG. 2 and corresponding description provided on page 8, line 31, to page 9, line 30. Furthermore, the recitations of the operations recited in independent claims 4 and 7 are supported, for instance, in FIGS. 6 and 7 of the present invention, and corresponding description presented on page 11, line 34, to page 13, line 34. According to the Specification of the present invention, in step 3, a Mac address written in a DHCP (information) received from the printer 2-1 is retrieved from addresses stored in a file in the manager 1, namely, the Mac address list storing part 31 as shown in Fig. 3. See page 12, lines 1-37 of the Specification of the present application. If the result is affirmative, namely, if the Mac address can be found, the system returns to step 1. If the result is negative, namely, if the Mac address cannot be found, the system proceeds to step 4.

In step 4, the system recognizes that the Mac address is for a new printer and creates a new file for the printer in the manager 1. Then, in step 7, the serial number of the printer 2-1 is compared with serial numbers of the other printers. If there is a coincidence in these numbers, the system judges that any printer has not been replaced and proceeds to step 8. If there is not any coincidence in these numbers, the system judges that a printer was replaced when the LAN card was replaced, and returns to step 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Specification supports the recitations provided in claims 1-8.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection to the claims be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited. At a minimum, this Amendment should be entered at least for purposes of Appeal as it either clarifies and/or narrows the issues for consideration by the Board.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited and possibly concluded by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss any such remaining issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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